

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 - 18, and add new claims 19 - 38 as follows:

19. (new) A system for implementing a best fare for each patron of a plurality of patrons, each patron utilizing a smart card for access to a plurality of mass transit devices, the system comprising:
2 a mass transit central computer;
4 a best fare data base connected to the mass transit central computer,
6 the best fare data base for storing a plurality of price point tables, each price point table of the plurality of price point tables comprising at least one price point having a maximum fare corresponding to a maximum number of days;
8 a value load list processor for downloading at least one of the plurality of price point tables to at least one mass transit device of the plurality of mass transit devices; and
10 the plurality of mass transit devices coupled to the mass transit central computer and the value load list processor, each mass transit device of the plurality of mass transit devices
12 comprising:
14 a smart card reader for reading from and writing to the smart card, the smart card for storing fare transaction data for a plurality of days, the fare transaction data comprising a purchased fare for each day of the plurality of days;
16 a best fare processor in communication with the mass transit central computer, the best fare processor for analyzing a rolling time period comprising a portion of the fare
18 transaction data stored on the smart card against the at
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26 least one price point of the each price point table of the
plurality of price point tables, the rolling time period
having a start date and an end date, the best fare
processor for determining the best fare for the rolling
time period when a sum of the purchased fares for the
rolling time period is at least equal to the maximum fare
of the at least one price point.

20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of mass transit
2 devices comprises at least one of rail gates, bus fare boxes, and parking lot
structures.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the plurality of price point
2 tables comprises one of at least one bus price point table, at least one rail
gate price point table, and at least one parking lot equipment price point
4 table.

22. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein a shared price point table of
2 the plurality of price point tables is shared by at least two of the mass
transit devices.

23. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the start date is determined
2 based upon a first transaction of the fare transaction data stored on the
smart card, and the end date is the start date plus the maximum number of
4 days of the at least one price point.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the maximum number of days
2 is a multiple of seven days.

25. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the smart card stores the fare
2 transaction data for up to twenty-eight (28) days.

4 26. (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising:
6 a transaction data summary database connected to the mass transit
8 central computer for storing the fare transaction data of the
10 smart card for the each patron;
12 a transaction data analyzer connected to the best fare data base and
the transaction data summary database, the transaction data
analyzer for determining whether the fare transaction data
meets requirements for a longer-period price point of at least
one longer-period price point table of the plurality of price point
tables.

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27. (New) The system of claim 26, further comprising an adjustor for
2 determining credits due to the each patron based upon results of the
transaction data analyzer and for communicating the credits to the mass
4 transit central computer for download to the smart card of the each patron.

28. (New) A method for determining a best fare for a patron utilizing a
2 smart card for access to at least one mass transit device of a plurality of
mass transit devices, the method comprising the steps of:
4 storing a plurality of fare transactions on the smart card, each fare
transaction of the plurality of fare transactions comprising a

6 purchased fare value;
7
8 downloading at least one price point table to the at least one mass
9 transit device, the at least one price point table having at least
10 one price point comprising a maximum fare and a maximum
11 number of days;
12 reading the plurality of fare transactions from the smart card;
13 comparing a sum of the purchased fare values for a time period to the
14 at least one price point of the at least one price point table, the
15 time period comprising at least a portion of the plurality of fare
16 transactions defined by a start date and an end date; and
17 awarding the patron the best fare when the sum is equal to or greater
18 than the maximum fare of the at least one price point.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:
storing the plurality of fare transactions from the smart card on a
transaction database of a central computer;
comparing the plurality of fare transactions to a longer-period price
point of the at least one price point table; and
downloading a monetary adjustment to the smart card based upon a
result of the comparison.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the plurality of mass transit
2 devices comprises at least one of rail gates, bus fare boxes, and parking lot
structures.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the at least one price point
2 table comprises one of at least one bus price point table, at least one rail

gate price point table, and at least one parking lot equipment price point
4 table.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein a shared price point table of
2 the at least one of price point table is shared by at least two of the mass
transit devices.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the start date is determined
2 based upon a first transaction of the time period, and the end date is the
start date plus the maximum number of days of the at least one price point.

34. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the maximum number of days
2 is a multiple of seven days.

35. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the smart card stores the
2 plurality of fare transactions for up to twenty-eight (28) days.

36. (New) A system for providing a best fare for a patron utilizing a smart
2 card for access to mass transit devices, the system comprising:

4 a mass transit central computer;
6 a best fare data base coupled to the mass transit central computer,
the best fare data base for storing a plurality of price points,
each price point of the plurality of price points comprising a
maximum number of days corresponding to a maximum fare;

8 the mass transit devices comprising:
10 a smart card reader for reading from and writing to the smart
card, the smart card for storing fare transaction data for

12 a plurality of days; and
14 a best fare processor in communication with the mass transit
16 central computer, the best fare processor for comparing
18 the fare transaction data stored on the smart card to the
 maximum number of days and the maximum fare of the
 each price point of the plurality of price points to
 determine the best fare available to the patron for a
 rolling time period, the rolling time period comprising at
 least a portion of the plurality of days.

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2 37. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein the rolling time period has a
 start date and an end date, and wherein the start date for the rolling time
 period is a first transaction date of the fare transaction data, and the end
 date for the rolling time period is the start date plus the maximum number of
 days.

2 38. (New) The system of claim 36, further comprising:
4 a transaction data summary database connected to the mass transit
 central computer for storing the fare transaction data of the
 smart card for the patron;
6 a transaction data analyzer connected to the best fare data base and
 the transaction data summary database, the transaction data
 analyzer for analyzing whether the fare transaction data meets
8 a longer-period price point of the plurality of price points; and
 an adjustor for determining credits due to the patron based upon the
10 analysis of the transaction data analyzer.